Galpin Gives BOOM Times at Cristin Tierney

Art Review by: Oscar A. Laluyan | November 4, 2015
Photography by: Olya Turcihin

They don’t just call it the bustlin’ metropolis for nothing because when cities are built at head turning speed – they call it the “Boom Times”. AF felt the rise and rush of urban development with the latest works by Richard Galpin last October 29th for his solo show of sculpture installations for Slow Boom.

London based Galpin created all of the pieces in his studio across the pond with meticulous and careful planning as the myriad of work fills and seems to radiate in the specified space of the New York gallery. The metal compositions are made of building materials with industrial braces anchoring each cut rod. The constructivism genre fashioned by Galpin is acutely done and every element counts into the elevation of each piece.

Being an urban dweller in a city such as London, construction sites abound and the building frame intrudes the vista. Galpin grabbed the iconic form and injected the bursting energy in the radiating placement of the painted rods. The matte finish on the painted parts were very smart as it did not take away from the luster of the metal had it been in a glossy finish. The palette was based on industrial hues used in Europe and referenced the construction firms who paint their sites per their color to mark their territory.
Galpin demonstrated cerebral creativity, thoughtful planning, and the craftsmanship of a master who has a plan. Sketches were made with notes and color coded as each rod has its place. This was not a random and organic feat of artistry as each piece belonged in their nook and cranny. The industrial materials emanated the ghost of John Chamberlain if he had pristine materials to build with instead of being crumpled up. You can still see the handiwork in the brushed effect of the wispy fading edges of the color to the stark white. Standing in front of each installation you get engaged in the intricate grids and energized flow of the lines crossing out or lined next to each other. And before you know it – BOOM! You are gob smacked into total amazement. Cities may rise fast but a really profound piece of art burns slowly but surely.

Richard Galpin: Slow Boom
Exhibition Dates: October 29 – December 12, 2015
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday (10 am to 6 pm)
Cristin Tierney Gallery. 540 West 28th Street. NYC, NY 10001.